George W. Collins

LATE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM ILLINOIS

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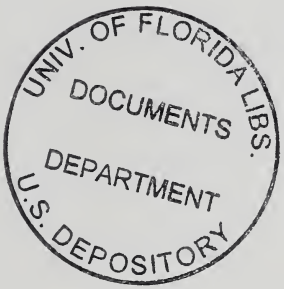

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Memorial Services

Held in the House of Representatives of the United States,
together with tributes presented in eulogy of

George W. Collins

Late a Representative From Illinois

Ninety-third Congress
First Session

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
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Biography

GEORGE WASHINGTON COLLINS was born in Chicago, Cook County, Ill., March 5, 1925; graduated from Waller High School and studied business law at Northwestern University; served with Army Engineers in South Pacific during World War II; after being discharged, held positions with Cook County Sheriff's Department, the municipal court system, and the Board of Health; administrative assistant to health commissioner, 1963; alderman, Chicago City Council, 1964–70; elected as a Democrat to the 91st Congress on November 3, 1970, to fill the unexpired term caused by the death of Daniel J. Ronan; reelected to the 92d and 93d Congresses; served from November 3, 1970, until his death December 8, 1972, in an air crash during landing approach to Midway Airport, Chicago, Ill., interment in Burr Oak Cemetery.

MEMORIAL SERVICES
FOR
GEORGE W. COLLINS

Proceedings in the House

WEDNESDAY, *January 3, 1973.*

This being the day fixed by the 20th amendment of the Constitution for the annual meeting of the Congress of the United States, the Members-elect of the House of Representatives of the 93d Congress met in their Hall, and at 12 o'clock noon were called to order by the Clerk of the House of Representatives, Hon. W. Pat Jennings.

The Chaplain, Rev. Edward G. Latch, D.D., prefaced his prayer with these words of Scripture:

Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed; for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.—Joshua 1:9

Eternal God and Father of us all, make us aware of Thy presence as we prepare ourselves for a new year together in the service of our beloved country. Bless these Representatives of our people with Thy most gracious favor and so move within their hearts that they may look to Thee for guidance and from Thee receive wisdom to walk in Thy ways, strength to stand steadfastly for the common good, and confidence to labor courageously for peace, justice, and freedom in our world. Support them all the day long as they face the responsibilities entrusted to them.

Before Thee we remember with affection and with sorrow Hale Boggs, Frank Bow, Nick Begich, GEORGE COLLINS, and Harry S Truman. May these beloved colleagues and our former President find favor in Thy sight and receive the reward of work well done for our Republic. Comfort their families with the strength of Thy spirit.

Now let us unite in praying together:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us

this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Mr. PRICE of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 16) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution as follows:

HOUSE RESOLUTION 16

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable GEORGE W. COLLINS, a Representative from the State of Illinois.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MONDAY, *January 15, 1973.*

Mr. RAILSBACK. Mr. Speaker, the 93d Congress has opened without several familiar persons. All of us are particularly saddened by the loss of three distinguished Members.

In October, Congressmen Nick Begich of Alaska and Hale Boggs of Louisiana disappeared during the course of an air flight over Alaska, while Mr. Boggs was campaigning for the reelection of Mr. Begich. To date, no trace of them, their pilot, or their aircraft has been found.

In December, Representative GEORGE COLLINS of Illinois was one of many people killed in the tragic crash of a commercial airliner in Chicago.

These three men, from different districts and States, held a common respect for the national legislature and for the good of the people of their home district.

GEORGE COLLINS traveled to his district on Chicago's West Side almost every weekend as his way of keeping in close touch with those he represented. He was a tireless champion of the rights of all Ameri-

cans, and the Seventh District of Illinois has indeed lost a good friend and public servant.

When Hale Boggs came to the House of Representatives in 1941, he was just 26 years of age, the youngest man in Congress. In the long and eventful years since he first came to Washington, he has risen to positions of authority in the various committees and forums of the House. As majority leader, Hale Boggs provided the leadership for his party, and he served the people of Louisiana well.

Nick Begich came to the House 2 years ago as Alaska's Representative-at-Large. He quickly moved to take on many issues confronting the Congress, and served ably on the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee. His knowledge of Indian affairs, national parks, and public lands has been of great value to his colleagues.

These men are certainly going to be missed by the 93d Congress. I know I speak for all my colleagues in extending our deepest sympathy to their families.

MONDAY, *February 5, 1973.*

Mr. PRICE of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, this past December tragedy befell the House of Representatives when our esteemed colleague the Honorable GEORGE COLLINS of Illinois was killed in an airplane crash.

As fate would have it, GEORGE COLLINS was returning to his Sixth Illinois District to sponsor an annual children's Christmas party, an event he participated in every year. The day he died GEORGE COLLINS was doing what he did best; he was serving the people he represented. I am certain that if GEORGE COLLINS had any premonition that he was going to die that day he would have wanted it to happen as it did, working for his people.

Though in Congress for a brief time, having been elected initially in November 1970 to fill the vacancy caused by the death of his predecessor the Honorable Daniel J. Ronan, GEORGE COLLINS made his mark in the House of Representatives. He was well respected and regarded as an able legislator who was looked upon as a Member who did his homework, worked hard for his district and lived by a set of principles all men seek to emulate.

A veteran, an active member of his community and an artful poli-

tical practitioner, GEORGE COLLINS is a man who is missed; not only by his family, his friends, his constituents, his colleagues but the Nation as a whole. GEORGE COLLINS, in his quiet, dignified way working continuously to improve his district and the Nation as a whole, made a lasting impression on the House. He was affectionately referred to by his colleagues as the man with the big, perpetual smile.

His perspective was both individual and national in scope. No problem was too small; no problem too large. GEORGE COLLINS had committed himself to a public career to serve the people. No stranger to politics at any level of government GEORGE COLLINS used his talents and knowledge to the benefit of the people.

GEORGE COLLINS never lost sight of the fact that the people of the Sixth District sent him to Washington to represent them. He died going back home to them. Nor did he lose sight of the fact that by working to strengthen the Nation as a whole the people of the Sixth District would benefit.

It was my distinct pleasure to work closely with GEORGE COLLINS on legislation that was designed to revitalize the American economy. Serving on the Committee on Government Operations and the House Public Works Committee, GEORGE COLLINS took keen interest in putting the full resources of the Federal Government to work for the development and impovement of the American people. He worked tirelessly to help all Americans share in the full benefit of this country and to realize their full potential.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I would hope that the people of the Sixth District will be spared further hardship. In the span of 3 years they have suffered two grievous losses, the deaths of Dan Ronan and GEORGE COLLINS. And if I may be permitted a partisan aside for a moment I sincerely hope that Mrs. Cardiss Collins, the widow of GEORGE COLLINS, will be successful in her efforts to succeed her husband in order to carry on the work he started.

Mrs. Price joins me in offering our deepest sympathy to Cardiss Collins and her son Kevin.

Mr. ANNUNZIO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, the distinguished dean of the Illinois delegation, for yielding. I want to commend Mel Price, who is known as the dean of our delegation, the chairman of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy and the chairman of the Ethics Committee in the House of Representatives, for taking this time this afternoon to eulogize and pay tribute to GEORGE

COLLINS who served in this body as a distinguished Congressman from the Sixth District of Illinois, and who in November of 1972 was elected to the Congress from the Seventh Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, I represented the Seventh Congressional District in the Congress for 8 years, and because of previous redistricting, there was a new Seventh Congressional District formed, and Mr. COLLINS in this newly defined Seventh Congressional District was elected by more than 75 percent of the vote of that district.

Mr. Speaker, GEORGE COLLINS was cut down in the prime of his career. He had a long and varied career of service in our city, the city of Chicago, before coming to the House of Representatives. With his wise experience in human affairs, he combined a deep and sympathetic understanding of human beings and of humanity itself.

GEORGE COLLINS had the ability to look perceptively beyond the facts and paperwork, and he had the ability to understand the hopes and fears of human beings. GEORGE COLLINS, with his experience and depth of human understanding, will be missed in the House, because it is men of this caliber who are needed in a democracy. We shall miss the ideals of GEORGE COLLINS, his faith in humanity, and his ability to understand the elements which give life and spirit to our system of Government. I shall miss GEORGE, who was my neighbor in the city of Chicago.

I want to extend on behalf of Mrs. Annunzio and myself our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Collins and her son Kevin in this time of great tragedy in their lives.

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank very much the dean of our delegation, the distinguished leader of the delegation from Illinois, Mel Price, for yielding to me in order to afford me an opportunity to join in this eulogy.

Mr. Speaker, today, we as a body, are eulogizing a late Member of this body. It is indeed a sad day. For GEORGE W. COLLINS was first and foremost a black American; a man dedicated to helping his people in whatever way he could. His people were the poor, the unfortunate and the lonely. They were black, brown, yellow, and white; they were people.

In all the years that I had known GEORGE COLLINS his greatest asset was that he gave unstintingly to the people of the community and the district. Actions always speak louder than words, and GEORGE was above shouting to all corners his own praise. GEORGE worked

hard to see that all of the "forgotten" people in the district, the underprivileged children and the senior citizens, were remembered; he did this by giving each of them an annual party.

Not only was GEORGE concerned with the people of his district, but he made himself available to the people. He was available to people who came into his office if he was there. Constituent or non-constituent, probusing or antibusing, he would try to meet with all of them.

I am referring to a man who loved life and people as few of us are ever able to appreciate. GEORGE was born and raised in the heart of Chicago. With only the barest essentials of life, his family never wanting for love and understanding, GEORGE started at the bottom of the Democratic organization in Chicago. Through hard work GEORGE was finally elected an alderman on the city council and a committeeman for the 24th ward, the ward that Harry Truman called the greatest Democratic ward in the country. Through GEORGE's leadership the 24th ward kept the title that the late President bestowed upon it, and it maintained its tradition of helping the needy. It was because of this dedication and leadership that GEORGE went on to be elected and reelected to this esteemed body. He carried this dedication to the Congress and worked very hard for the people of his district and the people of this country.

I am going to miss GEORGE, not only as a colleague, but also as a friend. As we all know, it is very difficult to have any time to get together with one's friends during a hectic week here at the Capitol. GEORGE and I would manage to find the time on our weekly flights to and from Chicago. It was on these flights that we would discuss the situations in Washington and Chicago and try to map out strategy for our common areas of concern. Those discussions were invaluable for the both of us.

The loss of GEORGE COLLINS is very deeply felt not only by those in Chicago, but by the poor and minorities around the country. His memory will always be with us; his wife, Cardiss, and his son, Kevin, can be very proud of the prestige that he brought to the family name of Collins.

GEORGE was very proud of the associations and friendships that he made on the Hill and in Washington. His hard work in the Congressional Black Caucus, the Democratic Caucus, and the Congress brought him respect and friendships that he always enjoyed. He will

be well remembered for his efforts to improve the quality of life for all our citizens.

Mr. O'NEILL. Mr. Speaker, I had the distinct honor of going to the funeral services of our late and beloved colleague, GEORGE COLLINS. It was one of the most beautiful services that I had ever attended. The church was crowded to full capacity, showing the love, the affection, and the respect that those who lived in GEORGE COLLINS' neighborhood had for him.

I had only known GEORGE, of course, since he became a Member of the Congress. To all of us in this Chamber who knew him, GEORGE COLLINS exuded an effervescent personality, a keen mind, and a great sense of humor. And it was easy to see that he loved his fellow men.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent at this time to have the remarks that I made at the memorial services for GEORGE COLLINS placed in the Record.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

The material referred to follows:

REMARKS AT MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR GEORGE COLLINS

The flag above the Capitol hangs at half mast today in tribute to our late friend and colleague, GEORGE COLLINS. The death of a Congressman is always marked by sadness as we recall past associations and achievements. But the death of GEORGE COLLINS is doubly tragic, for we mourn not only a distinguished past but an even more promising future lost.

GEORGE COLLINS was a politician in the finest sense of the word—a man whose purposes and accomplishments were utterly and completely in the public interest. In his brief years in the House, GEORGE developed a reputation for fair-mindedness and knowledgeability that few exceeded. He was known to be loquacious—but just because he did not discuss and deliberate upon an issue at great length did not indicate that he was uninformed or disinterested. On the contrary, he was so well-informed and so interested in issues—especially those affecting Illinois, the youth of America and the minorities—that he often gave accurate off-the-cuff answers to extremely complicated questions, constantly impressing his colleagues with the scope of his knowledge.

Sudden death always stuns and saddens. This is especially true when death deprives us of someone who has been so beloved by his family and so respected and admired by all who knew him.

There are many things we shall long remember about GEORGE COLLINS. His family will keep him in their hearts as a loving son, a devoted husband and father. The people of Chicago will cherish his memory as one of its most illustrious and faithful citizens, who brought to his native city honor and pride and distinction. The Congress will always remember him as a fighter for the rights of all people.

We all read how GEORGE COLLINS had taken the ill-fated flight rather than rest for a later one, so that he could personally participate in purchasing toys for the thousands of children at the annual Christmas party in his area.

That was typical of GEORGE COLLINS. Whether it was arranging the annual dinner for the elderly or working on a program for the poor, GEORGE COLLINS was a champion of the little people.

What was there about GEORGE that made him the wonderful person that he was? What motivated him? What was it that influenced him and inspired him to be such a devoted family man, such a concerned citizen, such a dedicated public servant?

Because he loved his community, he plunged into its affairs and gave of himself, and of his talents, his excellent education, his genuine selflessness. Because he loved the people of Chicago and because he loved this nation which he served in time of war, he spent himself in the service of Chicago and of America, very often at the sacrifice of personal and family pleasures and joys. Yes, the answer is love. Love was the reason.

The word "LOVE" is a word that is used very loosely today. It is scrawled on walls and painted on banners. But love is more easily written than lived. Love is more often betrayed than followed. True love never destroys. It creates. True love never tears down. It builds. Real love does not separate or polarize. It unites.

Young people sing that what the world needs now is love. And they are right. But the kind of love the world needs is the love exemplified in the life of GEORGE COLLINS. Love for the good, and in the service of others, no matter what the cost to self. This kind of love is the kind that ultimately prevails. This is the love that wins the final victory—even victory over death. It conquers death, because, the good it does lives on. It overcomes death because it is united with the love of the risen Lord who overcame death by his resurrection.

To his beloved family, his devoted wife, Cardiss, and their fine son, Kevin, we express our sincere sympathy. We pray that the Lord of all consolation will comfort them in their grief and sustain them in their sorrow.

Alleluia!
The strife is o'er, the battle done.
The victory of life is won.
The song of life eternal has begun.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Mr. MURPHY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my colleagues in paying tribute to our late good friend, GEORGE

COLLINS. As the previous speaker has mentioned, GEORGE was a warm and dear friend whose only concern was for his people, both black and white and rich and poor. He represented a unique district in Chicago where we have the downtrodden poor and then the rich along Lake Michigan.

GEORGE served both segments of his community diligently. His warm smile and congenial manner will always be missed. His presence, though short in Congress, will always be remembered for his concern for his fellow man.

As an attorney in Chicago, I remember there would not be a week or two go by without GEORGE calling and asking if I could get a lawyer to represent some poor person from his district who was in trouble. He was constantly working for the poor.

Mrs. Murphy joins with me in conveying our profound sympathy to Mrs. Collins and their son Kevin.

Mr. HOLIFIELD. Mr. Speaker, GEORGE COLLINS was a member of the Committee on Government Operations during his period of service here in Congress. I can attest as chairman of that committee that he was diligent in attendance; he was always cooperative and willing to move the best legislation forward. His death represents a great loss to the community, and I wish to extend my sympathy and best regards to his family. I hope that they will understand how much the Members of the Congress appreciated GEORGE COLLINS.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to add my voice to the many others that have offered muchly deserved praise for our colleague from Chicago, the late GEORGE W. COLLINS, Democratic Representative from Illinois' new Seventh Congressional District.

One of the best indications of the kind of man Congressman COLLINS was can be seen by the fact that the tragic flight to Chicago was carrying him to a Christmas party for the children of his district's 24th ward. He had insisted on buying the presents for the children himself.

My political experience was enhanced by knowing a man of such outstanding ability and commitment as Congressman COLLINS. He carried the concerns of his constituency to the Halls of Congress, beginning with the 91st, with the same vigor he had shown in Chicago

politics. As a foe of war, he sought to establish a Cabinet-level Department of Peace.

A member of the Congressional Black Caucus. Congressman COLLINS was a leader in the areas of social legislation. He worked diligently for the passage of legislation beneficial to America's 30 million black citizens.

It was my privilege to join Congressman COLLINS as a member of the House Committee on Public Works, Roads Subcommittee. His last draft of legislation, true to the high caliber of his efforts, would have made it unconstitutional for employers to inquire into the nature of military discharge. This has been a problem for the millions of American veterans who have been unable to find work because of less than honorable discharges. Racial bias in the military also received his close and careful attention.

Under his leadership, Chicago's Lawndale Youth Commission adopted a year-round program dedicated to "service to youth." This program included charm and craft classes, an annual family picnic, a scholarship program, dinners for senior citizens, and a Christmas party.

Congressman COLLINS' death en route to buy gifts for that party represents a loss of the highest order; particularly for his family, to whom my condolences go out, but also for the Black Caucus and the Nation.

Mr. FINDLEY. Mr. Speaker, the tragic death of GEORGE COLLINS is an incalculable loss to his family, his community, the Congress, and the Nation. Although he served only one term in Congress, his service was singularly exceptional. Congressman COLLINS was assigned to the Government Operations Committee, an assignment which I too had in the previous Congress. Well liked by his colleagues, Congressman COLLINS made his presence known and through his diligent work had a substantial impact upon the legislative output of the 92d Congress.

The circumstances of Congressman COLLINS' death have special meaning to me. Only hours before, on a flight from Chicago to Washington I had been on the very plane which crashed with GEORGE aboard upon its return to Chicago. Such an unusual circumstance can only draw attention to the frailty of all human beings and the thread of fate by which we all are suspended.

Congressman COLLINS' untimely death has left unfinished the great work he was about. His successor will have an inspiring example and lofty goal at which to aim.

Mr. ERLENBORN. Mr. Speaker, GEORGE COLLINS served only one term and a small part of another in the House of Representatives. He is not, therefore, as well known here as some of my other Illinois colleagues whose service in Congress has extended over longer periods.

Before he came here, however, he had already made his mark in Chicago, the city of his birth; and he was one of the truly distinguished citizens of Illinois. He had earned the right to represent the Sixth Congressional District.

It is with sorrow that we contemplate the death of so good a man. We extend our sympathy to Mrs. Collins and their son, upon whom the tragedy of his death bears most heavily.

Mr. ROSTENKOWSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague from Illinois for taking this special order today in order to pay tribute to our late good friend Congressman GEORGE COLLINS.

His untimely death last December has not only deprived the Congress of one of its most industrious Members, but also has cost the city of Chicago one of its most effective leaders. I have lost a good and old friend.

In addition to serving with him during his brief tenure in the House, I had worked with him side by side for many years on the Cook County Democratic Committee.

Both in Washington and in Chicago, GEORGE COLLINS was a man dedicated to public life. He was a man who was committed to his district, but more important to his people. It was this human commitment that always drove him to find the roots of the problem rather than be content with some superficial changes that might satisfy others. This dedication was no more evident than at meetings of the Cook County Democratic Committee. At these important meetings, it was GEORGE COLLINS who always spoke for the need to choose candidates not for their vote-getting ability or their popularity, but rather for their capacity for work and for their commitment to the trust that the electorate has placed in them.

It was this dedication, this commitment to the people that he was chosen to represent, that kept GEORGE COLLINS in Washington long after the 92d Congress had ajourned for the final time. It was

this dedication that kept him working at his desk until this tragic day in December when he met his death.

GEORGE COLLINS' election to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1970 was the culmination of years of personal struggle and of endless work. It is a little-known fact that the district that first sent him to Congress that year, had not only never elected a black Representative, but in fact, was more than 60 percent white. This is a special example of the man's ability to overcome adversity in his effort to serve the public. And after his election at the age of 45, GEORGE COLLINS indeed served his public well. He fought for programs that would benefit all of his Westside constituents regardless of their race, creed, or political belief.

Whenever I think of GEORGE, and I shall think of him often, I shall remember a man who was softspoken, but was not soft; a man who was dedicated, yet was not intolerant; a man who lived by trusted doctrines, yet was not doctrinaire.

On behalf of my wife LaVerne and myself, I would like to offer my sincere condolences to his widow, Cardiss, and to their son, Kevin.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois for taking this special order to allow us to pay our respects to the memory of GEORGE COLLINS. Although he had been in this Congress for only 2 years, Congressman COLLINS made an inestimable contribution to this Nation. As Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, I was privileged to work very closely with him. His passing was a deep personal loss to me and I want to extend my sympathy to his family.

GEORGE was a quiet man. He did not seek headlines, but he worked diligently and effectively for the objectives we shared as members of the Congressional Black Caucus. He had a very special concern for senior citizens and for young people. Legislation to meet the needs of these two groups of people was his specialty, but he was active in all aspects of the work of the caucus. We will miss his talents, but hope to honor his memory with the achievement of the goals for which he strived.

To memorialize Congressman COLLINS, the Congressional Black Caucus adopted a resolution. The purpose of this resolution was to

pledge to continue the work to which Representative COLLINS had such a deep commitment. The text of that resolution follows:

RESOLUTION

Whereas, Congressman GEORGE W. COLLINS, who departed this life on Friday, December 8, 1972, was a Member of the Congressional Black Caucus; and

Whereas, he served in the capacity of Chairman of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Subcommittee of the Congressional Black Caucus; and

Whereas, Congressman GEORGE W. COLLINS endeared himself to all Members of this organization by his dedication and commitment to the achievement of the goals and aspirations of the Congressional Black Caucus; and

Whereas, this nation is the beneficiary of his labor in seeking to eradicate inequality and impoverishment in our society; and

Whereas, in his capacity as a public servant he dedicated himself in his role as a legislator to improving life for Black, poor and disadvantaged people in this nation;

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Members of the Congressional Black Caucus are proud of their association with this distinguished and esteemed Member of Congress.

Be it further resolved, that the Members of the Congressional Black Caucus do hereby pledge to continue the work which we have collectively undertaken with our deceased brother, Congressman GEORGE W. COLLINS.

Be it further resolved, that this organization shall in an appropriate manner establish a means by which this Caucus can memorialize the memory of this beloved Member.

Be it further resolved, that this resolution be presented to the wife and family of Congressman COLLINS and that a copy thereof be spread upon the journal of the Congressional Black Caucus and of the House of Representatives.

December 9, 1972.

Mrs. BURKE of California. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I did not have an opportunity to serve with GEORGE COLLINS of Illinois in the House of Representatives. He was a distinguished man who fought hard for what he believed in, and I was looking forward to working with him.

GEORGE COLLINS was a man who showed compassion and concern for the problems and needs of all Americans, young and old, rich and poor, black and white. Of special concern to him, I know, was the desire to insure the fair and equal treatment of all men in the military services and to encourage the promotion of men where ability had been proven. His interests encompassed a number of other issues

including housing, public health, employment, medical care for the aged, and care for the mentally handicapped.

As a Member of Congress, GEORGE COLLINS made important contributions to some of the major public policy questions affecting the quality of life in our country. His service to his constituents and to our Nation will be much missed.

Mr. HAWKINS. Mr. Speaker, I commend the distinguished gentleman from Illinois, the Honorable Melvin Price, for having obtained this time in order to memorialize the life and achievements of our former associate, GEORGE W. COLLINS.

In the few months we were privileged to associate with him, GEORGE COLLINS gave us a refreshingly new outlook and brilliant insight into public service in its noblest sense.

GEORGE COLLINS possessed a quiet dignity with a militant force of personal dignity—a love of people and a hatred for evil that oppressed and exploited.

We shall miss him greatly in everything we do and all we plan.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, it is a tragic loss for the Congress that the Honorable GEORGE COLLINS will not be here to fulfill the great potential which he demonstrated during his brief tenure in the House of Representatives.

Congressman COLLINS came to the Congress after a long and distinguished career in local government, serving first as deputy sheriff and bailiff for Cook County, and then in 1964 as alderman and ward committeeman of the 24th Ward—a ward once claimed by Franklin Delano Roosevelt to be the "strongest Democratic ward in the Nation."

From his experience with government at the local level, GEORGE COLLINS brought with him to Congress a love and understanding of the people whom he served. A quiet, considerate yet thoughtful individual, he placed the interests and needs of his constituents foremost among his responsibilities and served them with a dedication which far exceeded congressional duty. For example, he kept his district office open every day of the year, Sundays and evenings included, always leaving at least one person in charge to let the people know that GEORGE COLLINS was available and willing to help them. Neither was it unusual for him to dip into his own pocket to help a needy constituent.

GEORGE was concerned not only with the personal well-being of his constituents, but also with how the Government treated them, a sentiment reflected in his legislative activities. As a black legislator and invaluable member of the Congressional Black Caucus, he provided leadership in working for legislation beneficial to black people and the more than 1 million other minorities in the United States. Housing, health, employment, welfare, and drug abuse were his particular concerns. He was also a stanch opponent of war and a passionate advocate of peace.

GEORGE COLLINS was a member of the House Government Operations Committee, the Public Works Committee and five subcommittees. I had the opportunity to serve with GEORGE on the Government Operations Committee and worked closely with him. From this proximity, I witnessed first hand his strong commitment to the problems of black Americans. Housing and urban development concerned him perhaps more than other problems because of the particular needs of his district. His greatest desire was to see enacted a fair and equitable housing and urban development bill. He also strongly desired passage of a Federal highway act, in particular one which would deal with displacement of the urban poor by encroaching expressways.

The untimely death of GEORGE COLLINS is more than the personal loss which we all share. It is the loss of a fine American, an outstanding black legislator, and a distinguished public servant whose death can only diminish the causes for which he fought.

Mr. RODINO. Mr. Speaker, GEORGE COLLINS was only 45. He leaves behind a young widow and a son barely 13. He came to this Chamber just 3 short years ago and was reelected to continue serving his constituents in this 93d Congress by an 85-percent margin. His death came needless to say as a shocking tragedy to us all. Yet, I cannot help but recall the statement of Morris Joseph in S. Greenberg's "A Treasury of Comfort":

> Something precious is taken from us, and we think of it as something we have lost, instead of something we have had.

And, as I look back upon the months and years Mr. COLLINS took his seat in this House, serving well and devotedly his constituents, I realize the extreme appropriateness of Mr. Joseph's words.

I recall the Honorable GEORGE COLLINS as a warm man, always humble, never too busy to take time to speak with and to listen to

all who had questions and suggestions for him. He would deliberate for a long while before reaching a decision. Yet, once he had reached his conclusion, he would act strongly and perceptively. I particularly recall his concern for the safety of his constituents, for his desire to have all our citizens enjoy the life of our cities, walk freely down our streets with nothing to fear. I deeply share with him these feelings and, in the days ahead, I will continue to work toward the achievement of these goals.

The men and women of Illinois' Sixth District were indeed fortunate to have been represented by a man of Mr. COLLINS' dedication and ability. We, in this body, were equally fortunate to have had him as our colleague and as our friend.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I know my constituents, as well as those of my Illinois colleagues, were saddened greatly by the tragic and untimely death of our friend, the Honorable GEORGE COLLINS, of Illinois.

GEORGE COLLINS served what must be one of the most difficult districts in our State to represent. It included not only wealthy Lake Michigan shoreline area, but also the troubled West Side of the city of Chicago. That Mr. COLLINS was respected and well liked in his entire district was evidenced by his overwhelming victory last November.

Mr. COLLINS believed in serving his constituents which is why he was aboard the fatal plane that crashed last December 8. He was en route to a children's Christmas party in his district.

I know all of his many friends will miss him but never forget him, and I wish to join my colleagues in paying tribute to GEORGE and extending sympathies to his family and friends.

Mr. JOHNSON of California. Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleagues, and especially those from the great State of Illinois, in paying tribute to our late colleague, the Honorable GEORGE COLLINS.

GEORGE was only with us for a few years. However, he had impressed all of us who were privileged to serve with him on committees and in the Halls of the Congress. I served with him on the Committee on Public Works and found him to be a conscientious, competent, and cooperative legislator. He came to subcommittee and full committee meetings fully prepared because he had done his homework. He was a quiet man and a gentleman in every respect.

He also served with distinction on the Committee on Government Operations, and here again he had the respect of all who were privileged to know and work with him.

The State of Illinois, the constituents he served so well, and the Nation have lost a fine Representative. We in the Congress have lost a friend and colleague.

Mrs. Johnson joins me in extending deepest sympathy to his wife, Cardiss, and his son, Kevin.

Mr. DOMINICK V. DANIELS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the abler young Members of this House, the Honorable GEORGE W. COLLINS, whose service to his district and the Nation was brought to an untimely end shortly before the 93d Congress convened.

Mr. Speaker, for a man serving only a single term in this House, GEORGE COLLINS made a great impression upon all who came in contact with him. As a member of the Committees on Government Operations and Public Works he was a solid hard-working member who was dedicated to getting the job done and not in headline hunting. Clearly, he was a man who would have made a national reputation for himself in this body.

Mr. Speaker, I join with Mrs. Daniels and all Mr. COLLINS' friends in the House in extending our deepest sympathy to his widow, the former Cardiss Robertson and to their son, Kevin. In the years that lie ahead when the first shock of grief has past they will remember the many accomplishments of their husband and father. GEORGE COLLINS' memory will always remain among those who loved him for what he was, a very fine American, a devoted legislator, and a good citizen. May Almighty God let perpetual light shine upon him always.

Mr. FUQUA. Mr. Speaker, GEORGE W. COLLINS was a bright star that shone for far too little a time.

I knew Congressman COLLINS of Illinois rather well because he sat next to me on the Government Operations Committee. I was impressed with his fairness and his grasp of the problems that confronted us in our deliberations.

More important, I respected him for his obvious concern about others and his determination that we were going to solve some of these problems. Had he been permitted to live, I believe he would have made great contributions to his Nation.

As it is, a respected colleague is gone. Yet, I think his example will not be forgotten by those of us who had the opportunity to know him.

He served less than one term, coming here to fill a vacancy created by the death of another of our colleagues, Daniel J. Ronan. It is obvious that he represented his people well, for they renamed him to a second term.

To his wife and son, I extend my deepest sympathy.

The tragic crash of that airplane at Chicago caused anguish and grief to many families. It caused a particular pang to those of us who knew and respected GEORGE COLLINS.

It is a great tragedy for those of us who know what great contributions GEORGE COLLINS would have continued to make for his State and Nation had he been permitted to continue his stewardship. Yet, I think all of us can look back with pride on the fact that he made so many contributions in the short span he was permitted to be with us.

Mrs. MINK. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to join my colleagues in paying tribute to the Honorable GEORGE COLLINS of Illinois. His tragic death in an airplane crash this past December fills me with grief and sorrow.

During his service in the 91st and 92d Congress, I became personally acquainted with this great American who exemplified the ideals of our Nation. He quickly acquired a wide circle of friends and admirers who recognized his outstanding ability as a legislator. More than that, we enjoyed his presence as a friend.

GEORGE COLLINS worked his way through life and rose to a position as a U.S. Congressman because he was willing to exert extra effort to achieve lofty goals. He showed that one could succeed by individual initiative and determination. His success is an inspiration to all who believe in dedication to one's fellow man.

Through his membership on the House Committees on Public Works and Government Operations, through his votes, and through his leadership in many other areas of legislative endeavor, GEORGE COLLINS was an effective advocate for his district, State, and Nation. His loyalty, integrity, and devotion to the cause of the average person, are recognized by everyone who knew him.

GEORGE COLLINS' departure is a grievous loss to the Congress, but we have all benefited greatly from his presence. His accomplishments will remain as a testimonial to our highest ideals of service and brotherhood.

Mr. WINN. Mr. Speaker, it is a sad duty but also a privilege to join in honoring the memory of Congressman GEORGE COLLINS of Illinois. GEORGE COLLINS' fine career in Congress was cut short by the ill-fated airline crash which took his life.

When he met his death, he was returning to Chicago to attend the 24th ward children's Christmas party, of which he was the founder.

His service to the West Side of Chicago will long be remembered, as committeeman for the 24th ward, alderman for the same ward, and finally as a Member of Congress. He led many battles in the fields of housing and drug abuse prevention, but will be best remembered for his services to the youth of his community.

It is with sadness and pride that I pay him this final tribute.

Mr. HOWARD. Mr. Speaker, the loss of our colleague from Illinois is one we shall all feel deeply. Having served with GEORGE COLLINS on the House Committee on Public Works, I had the opportunity, although briefly, to know him and to appreciate his keen mind and great insight.

GEORGE's stay in the House was short. He came in 1970, after a special election, and was reelected to the 92d and 93d Congresses. His contributions during those years, however, were substantial, and this body has indeed suffered a great loss in not having his assistance during the 93d Congress, as well as the personal loss of his warm friendship for all.

He was a man who truly believed in the future of America—a future which embodied real equal opportunity for all men. He worked hard for that belief, and earned the respect of his colleagues in the process.

Mrs. Howard joins me in extending our deepest sympathy to his family in their sudden and most tragic loss.

Mr. MOORHEAD of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I know all those who knew GEORGE COLLINS were shocked and numbed by his death in a plane crash during the Christmas holiday.

I had the honor of serving with GEORGE on the Government Operations Committee and know the high regard in which he was held by both the members of the committee and his fellow delegation members of Illinois.

Although being a freshman legislator does not always offer an individual an opportunity to make an indelible mark on this institution, GEORGE COLLINS did make a lasting impression on those with whom he worked.

He was a fine man, and a good Congressman.

I wish to extend my condolences to his family.

I am most hopeful, if newspaper accounts are accurate, that Mrs. Cardiss W. Collins, GEORGE's widow, will join us in the House as a colleague, succeeding her late husband.

Ms. ABZUG. Mr. Speaker, GEORGE COLLINS and I came to the House together only 2 short years ago. During the 92d Congress, we served on the same two committees, Public Works and Government Operations, and our offices in the Longworth Building were only a few doors apart. Thus, I not only had the privilege of working with GEORGE in committee, but also walked with him to and from committee meetings or the House floor on many occasions.

As a Representative, he was a careful and diligent worker on behalf of his district and his country. As a human being, he was a warm family man with a smile and a greeting no matter how busy he was. It is typical of the man that when he died in a tragic air crash, he was en route to a meeting with constituents, doing his job and serving his country. We shall miss him.

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues from Illinois in paying my respects to the memory of the Honorable GEORGE COLLINS. Since we are both Collins, I have kept up with him closely as our names were called together on every rollcall.

But even more, our offices were only a few doors apart in the Longworth Office Building. Nearly every day we walked over together for votes when the bells would ring. What I remember the most about GEORGE was his pleasant, delightful personality. He always had a smile on his face and he lifted me up just to be walking with him.

He loved Chicago and he loved the whole country. He was a positive thinker and was determined to build a greater future for this country. As we would walk back and forth I always enhanced my perspective with his enthusiasm and interest in his work.

GEORGE COLLINS was a hard-working Congressman. When I left the office late, I always noticed that GEORGE was always working in his office. All the lights were out in the other offices, but GEORGE was still working. No matter how late it was in the evening, he always had a pleasant word of greeting or some comment for action.

I have seen his young son visit the office many times. To this fine son and to his charming widow, I extend my sincerest sympathy upon the loss of one of our most distinguished Members. The House will always remember GEORGE COLLINS, the Congressman from Chicago who represented Illinois so capably.

Mr. DRINAN. Mr. Speaker, the crash of a United Air Lines jet near Midway Airport in Chicago on December 8, 1972, took the life of Congressman GEORGE W. COLLINS.

The citizens of Chicago's Seventh Congressional District were well represented by this able and dedicated public servant. When he perished, GEORGE COLLINS was 47 years old, and about to begin his second term in Congress after a triumphant reelection in which he received 83 percent of the vote. He was one of the two black Congressmen from Chicago, and the first ever elected from Chicago's West Side.

GEORGE COLLINS' career in public service was a distinguished one. After leaving his studies in business law at Northwestern University, he served with the Army Corps of Engineers in the South Pacific during World War II. Returning to Illinois, he served with the Cook County Sheriff's Department, the municipal court system, and the board of health. He was the president of the Lawndale Youth Commission, a member of the board of directors of the Greater Lawndale Conservation Commission, and was a member of the Professional and Businessman's Association.

GEORGE COLLINS was elected to the House of Representatives in what was Chicago's Sixth Congressional District. Although as a black man in the minority in this District, in his 1970 campaign he won handily with 56 percent of the vote. During his all too short tenure

in the House he served on the Public Works Committee and the Committee on Government Operations.

I came to Congress with GEORGE COLLINS, and I can speak from personal knowledge of his dedication to Congress and to his constituents. He served his people well, working diligently here in Congress and returning to his District almost every weekend. GEORGE COLLINS will be sorely missed, both by his colleagues and by his constituents.

Mr. DORN. Mr. Speaker, GEORGE COLLINS was a friend of mine. We served together on the House Public Works Committee in the 92d Congress and we quckly developed a friendship of mutual respect. He was a conscientious and hard-working Congressman, devoted to the welfare of all Americans. He was a most effective advocate in committee and among all his colleagues for the best interest of the great city of Chicago. Congressman GEORGE COLLINS was tragically taken from us just at the prime of his career in public service, and we miss him greatly here.

Mrs. Dorn joins me in extending to his family and constituents our heartfelt sympathy and deepest respect.

Mr. ANDERSON of California. Mr. Speaker, the Honorable GEORGE W. COLLINS, the U.S. Representative from the Sixth Congressional Disrtict of Illinois, will be remembered by all of us as a warmhearted, intelligent, and generous man.

The late Congressman COLLINS was elected to fill a vacancy in the 91st Congress and was reelected to the 92d Congress.

While in Congress, I had the fortunate opportunity to work closely with him on the Public Works Committee. We worked especially hard on the effort to permit the use of highway trust fund revenues for mass transit purposes. At that time, I gained firsthand knowledge of his great concern for the aged, the young, and the minorities who are often denied the benefits of our society simply because they have no method of transportation. GEORGE was sensitive to the fact that, for these people, education, employment, and health care were out of reach except to those who were fortunate enough to possess an automobile and were able to drive. GEORGE was sensitive to the fact that highways often split neighborhoods and uprooted families. He was sensitive to the fact that highways merely brought congestion and pollution to his people, but did not relieve the problems.

GEORGE W. COLLINS' activities in Congress and in his district are numerous. He received various awards, including the Man of the Year Award from the Greater Lawndale Conservation Commission, and the Youth Service Award by the Chicago police department.

He was "a man of the people"; GEORGE COLLINS knew the people and their needs. He believed in people, and the people believed in him.

I should like to take this opportunity to extend the deepest sympathy of myself and Mrs. Anderson to Mrs. Collins and their son, Kevin.

Mr. WYDLER. Mr. Speaker, I had the honor of serving with GEORGE COLLINS on the Government Operations Committee and on subcommittee. I saw him in action and quickly realized his concern for the people he served. Although I was of a different party, I believed him to have been a good man and a fine legislator. We will miss him here in Congress.

Mr. REUSS. Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleagues in paying tribute to our late, good friend, GEORGE COLLINS. I was privileged to serve with Congressman COLLINS on the Government Operations Committee and to witness his diligence and his concern for humanity.

It is typical of the man that when he died he was on his way to a children's Christmas party. He had insisted on buying the presents himself.

Congress has lost an industrious Member, Chicago an effective leader, and we have all lost a friend. He shall be missed.

Mr. McCLORY. Mr. Speaker, one of the great aircraft tragedies of our century occurred on December 8, 1972, when a plane crashed near Midway Airport, causing the death of a number of passengers, including our colleague, Congressman GEORGE COLLINS of the Sixth District of Illinois.

In his fitting and eloquent tribute to GEORGE COLLINS, the distinguished majority leader, the Honorable Thomas "Tip" O'Neill, of Massachusetts, identified GEORGE COLLINS intimately with the word "love." It can be truly said that Congressman COLLINS was a beloved man who was held in deep affection by his constituents and by his colleagues in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I was privileged to attend the final services in memory of GEORGE COLLINS at his church in Chicago. The generous and heart-rending expressions heard on that occasion attest to the love which characterized Congressman COLLINS in his personal relationships, as well as in his public service.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have known GEORGE COLLINS during his lifetime, and to have benefited from the warmth and tenderness which surrounded this man of love and understanding.

I join with my other colleagues in mourning his loss, and in extending deepest sympathy to his loving wife, Cardiss, and to his devoted son, Kevin.

Mr. YATES. Mr. Speaker, time has erased in some measure the numbing shock with which we received the news of the untimely death of my good friend, Congressman GEORGE COLLINS.

GEORGE was a great Congressman. He was diligent, he was able, and he was hard working. His warm and friendly personality endeared him to everybody in the House. His death left a real void in the representation of our State in the Congress.

GEORGE was ever conscious of the needs and wishes of his people, but most of all the plight of the cities and the plight of the city of Chicago in particular were very close to him. He fought for better housing, lower cost housing, and for subsidized housing. He fought for better health and medical centers, for research grants for sickle cell anemia. He fought for better education, particularly for more funds for title I of ESEA. He fought for every measure that would better the lot of the average person. The little person received the support of GEORGE COLLINS, and he never faltered. He was faithful to his trust, and faithful to the end.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Yates joins me in expressing our most profound sympathies to Mrs. Collins and to GEORGE's family, with the hope that time may in some measure dim the grief they now feel.

Mr. JONES of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to the memory of our late colleague, the Honorable GEORGE W. COLLINS of Illinois, who served so capably with me on the House Public Works Committee.

Representative COLLINS was most diligent in the discharge of his committee responsibilities. He was an eager scholar in examining the great need for public facilities and the internal development of our

Nation. He was keenly aware of the requirements for urban improvements and sought to assure a proper place for total needs by the establishment of adequate priorities for development and enhancement of the environment for all people.

I recall with particular warmness a visit he made last year to inspect the George C. Marshall Space Flight Center and other Government activities within the north Alabama district I represent. It was a pleasure to be with him. Congressman COLLINS was very well received by all those with whom he came in contact. His alertness and pleasant manner gained him many new friends and admirers.

The fatal accident which cut short his congressional service was a tragedy realized far beyond the bounds of his Chicago districts.

We have all lost a generous and thoughtful colleague and friend.

Mr. BLATNIK. Mr. Speaker, the tragic, untimely death of GEORGE W. COLLINS came not only as a shock, but also with a deep sense of loss and sadness to all of us who worked with this distinguished gentleman from Illinois. The worst domestic airline crash of last year occurred on December 8, 1972, claiming the life of this devoted Member of Congress who was en route to Chicago to organize a children's Christmas party.

It was a great privilege and honor for me to have associated with GEORGE COLLINS on our Public Works Committee, where he served ably on four subcommittees in addition to his duties on the Government Operations Committee. This talented legislator will be remembered with gratitude and admiration for his vital contribution during the floor debate on passage of the historic Clean Water Act of 1972.

GEORGE COLLINS was a kind and gentle person, an effective dedicated public servant. I cherished his friendship, and respected his empathy for those Americans of less fortunate circumstances. The House of Representatives and the Nation have lost an effective champion of civil liberties and human dignity.

We already miss the day-to-day association with our former colleague and I personally deeply regret that our House Public Works Committee will no longer have the benefit of GEORGE COLLINS' devoted service, integrity, and spirit.

Mr. EVINS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, certainly I want to associate myself with the remarks of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Price) and join with him and others in paying a brief, but sincere

tribute to the memory of our late colleague, Congressman GEORGE W. COLLINS of Illinois.

I was shocked and saddened to learn of the tragic passing of GEORGE COLLINS—although his career in Congress has been cut short, we had all come to know and appreciate this fine man who was elected first to the 91st Congress. He was personable, industrious, and a gentleman.

GEORGE COLLINS served his district, State, and Nation faithfully and well—his background in government and civic affairs was excellent preparation for his duties and responsibilities as Congressman.

He had great ability and great potential—and he will be missed by his colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

I also want to take this means of extending to Mrs. Collins, and their son, Kevin, this expression of my deepest and most sincere sympathy in their loss and bereavement. Mrs. Evins joins me in these sentiments.

Mr. NIX. Mr. Speaker, during the beginning of the Christmas season we lost a close friend in Congressman GEORGE COLLINS.

He was on a flight to Chicago to organize a Christmas party for the children in his district.

His philosophy of government and politics was a simple one. He often said:

Serve the people 365 days a year and the votes take care of themselves.

His career was one that followed a classic route in American Government that took him through the municipal court system, law enforcement, the board of health, and the city council. When such a man comes to the Congress he has much to offer in that the millions of words that pass through his office in letters and memorandum have some meanings in that he can visualize the problems of people because he has learned so much about people and Government before he came.

GEORGE COLLINS served all the people of his district from the black wards of Chicago to the white wards of Cicero, Ill. In the past, the racial problems of his district had received great attention from the national press. Their Congressman was bringing the people of his district together, 365 days a year, proving once again that good politics is statesmanship 365 days a year.

We all are aware of the flashy courage that journalism devotes itself to because it is confined to one attention-getting event. But, the kind of courage that is exhibited by men going about their work day in and day out is evidenced by good character that a man's colleagues become aware of slowly but surely. It was said of Gen. Ulysses Grant, that people did not notice Grant, they became aware of him in time.

At the time of his death, GEORGE COLLINS was a Congressman's Congressman. He had the respect of the Members of the most important legislative body in the world, the U.S. House of Representatives. He earned it in 3 short years.

I will miss a friend and we will all miss a colleague.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, as the 93d Congress begins, I want to express my respect and admiration for one of the truly great Americans who served in the U.S. House of Representatives.

GEORGE COLLINS rose through the Chicago Democratic organization to become a Congressman 2 years ago. He had a remarkable record of public service for a man who served with us for such a short period. He was a champion of the little man and an advocate of income tax reform. We served together on the Government Operations Committee and I found him to be an intelligent, diligent, and hard-working man.

He was truly dedicated to public service, and lived up to the full measure of his responsibilities. He leaves rich memories for all of us in public office.

My deepest sympathies go out to his devoted wife and family.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Mr. Speaker, I am most appreciative of the gentleman from Illinois who has secured this special order to honor our late colleague and friend, GEORGE W. COLLINS. His loss is one which all of us feel deeply and we will sorely miss his effervescent personality, his sharp mind and his gracious manner.

I am going to miss GEORGE COLLINS very much. He was one of those rare men who, though young in service and age, was so able to place into a perspective the difficulties that face us in these times. He understood the issue in terms of the hopes and fears of human experience which he combined with his own deep compassion and sympathetic understanding. He led the people of his district in seeking the high ideals which our Nation offered and he represented their

everyday hopes and aspirations. It was in doing this that he lost his life on that ill-fated flight from Washington to Chicago. Instead of resting and going later, he took the early plane to be able to participate fully in the children's Christmas party. This was typical of his unbounding energy and selflessness. He loved his community, its people, and his Nation and he worked hard to serve them.

His motivation can be said to be founded in the city of his birth—Chicago—where he had a distinguished career before coming to Congress. He served as a sheriff, bailiff, and then alderman and committeeman. From these experiences he learned to know the city, its hopes, and its needs. He developed a special compassion for the elderly and the very young. These people especially shall miss him.

A sudden death is always tragic. Often, however, we can use the time and the tragedy to look more deeply into ourselves. I hope that we will do this because we ought not allow the motivation and the love which GEORGE had to pass on with him. I know that we will not allow his life and death to have been in vain.

My wife Dorothy extends with me our deepest sympathy to Cardiss and their son, Kevin.

Mr. COLLIER. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed tragic when a man with the exceptional ability, varied experience, and great potential of GEORGE W. COLLINS is suddenly taken from us. He could have contributed so much more to this great body and the Nation had he been spared for further service.

After serving his country with distinction during World War II and achieving a measure of success in business, GEORGE COLLINS was elected to the Congress of the United States. Although he served here for only 2 years, he quickly learned the fundamentals of the legislative process and soon had a well-deserved reputation for getting things done.

Without fanfare or flamboyancy, he worked hard on behalf of his constituents. He was, however, no mere parochial Member. His breadth of vision, his love of humanity, and his hatred of injustice knew no boundaries. We will sorely miss GEORGE COLLINS in the days ahead.

May he rest in peace and may his family find some comfort in knowing that he served his community, State and Nation well. Let the record that he has written inspire others to emulate his efforts.

Mr. BURKE of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague, Mr. Price, for taking this special order to enable us to pay tribute to a man who made his mark on Congress although here only 2 short years. I speak, of course, of the late GEORGE COLLINS, Congressman from Illinois, who perished in a tragic airplane crash last December.

GEORGE COLLINS was a quiet man. He did not seek headlines but few were as deserving of them as he. He worked hard in the Congressional Black Caucus and the Democratic Caucus as well as in Congress. He was a representative in the truest sense of the word, for he worked for the people of his district. His people were black, brown, yellow, and white; they were the poor, the unfortunate and the lonely; they were the powerless and the forgotten; but most importantly to GEORGE COLLINS, they were the people.

This Congress has lost one of its most dedicated, dignified, and respected Members. His memory should serve as a reminder to us all of what we are elected to do, represent the people.

My heartfelt sympathy goes out to his widow Cardiss and their son Kevin upon their great personal loss.

Mr. KLUCZYNSKI. Mr. Speaker, the tragic death of my colleague on the Illinois delegation, GEORGE COLLINS, just as he was about to begin his second full term in Congress, has been a great shock to us all. Elected in 1970 to fill the vacant seat caused by the death of veteran Congressman Daniel Ronan, and reelected to the 92d and 93d Congresses, GEORGE COLLINS was at the height of his successful career in politics and government. His loss will be sorely felt by his constituents, by the Illinois delegation, by all of his colleagues, and many friends and admirers.

Those of us who worked most closely with GEORGE will miss him particularly. As a freshman legislator, he was outstanding in his devotion and dedication to serving the needs of his district and the State of Illinois. He was never too busy to help a colleague or a constituent who needed his assistance, though he spent long hours researching the problems and details of his legislative assignments. He was loyal to his party, but was liked, admired, and respected by Members on both sides of the aisle.

The Nation, the Congress, and the State of Illinois have suffered a very great loss indeed, in the death of GEORGE COLLINS. He was a

man whose life was a demonstration of the highest ideals of public service. That life was tragically cut short, but GEORGE will not be forgotten. His memory will inspire others who may follow in his footsteps.

To his bereaved family, I join my colleagues in extending my deep sympathy and sincere condolences.

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the gentleman and all of the Chicago delegation for holding this special order in memory of my friend, the late Congressman GEORGE COLLINS from Chicago.

I would only say to the gentleman that Mr. COLLINS was a man that I came to know and love not only as my colleague but as my friend. I will miss him far beyond my ability to articulate here on the floor of Congress.

GEORGE COLLINS as a member of the Government Operations Committee served that committee and this House honorably. No man among us was more committed to serving those who sent him here than GEORGE COLLINS. Congressman COLLINS was in many ways a very simple person. At the same time he possessed the ability to direct even the most complex issue and construct its resolution in a manner that more often was not appealing to all concerned.

Congressman COLLINS, coming from one of this country's largest urban areas, brought to this Chamber the concerns of hundreds of thousands of Americans concerned about the quality of their lives. As a member of the Congressional Black Caucus and as an individual Member of the House he consistently voted for and worked for legislation that was designed to offer some relief to the millions of poor, uneducated, underskilled, and malnourished Americans.

I know that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to the legacy of fine work that this man leaves. It is my hope that the 93d Congress and Congresses to come will echo the sentiments and concerns expressed by GEORGE COLLINS as a Member of this distinguished body.

Mr. MATHIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the news of a multi-fatality accident such as a plane crash always comes as a shock and causes concern about those who lose their lives and the families and loved ones who survive.

When we heard of the airplane crash last December at Chicago, the news was even a greater shock when we learned that among the

passengers who died was our distinguished colleague, GEORGE COLLINS.

During the session last year I had the opportunity to meet GEORGE COLLINS and subsequently to watch him here at work in the House of Representatives and to learn of the zeal and dedication he had in serving his constituents of Illinois and in fact for serving his State and Nation.

He came to Washington after a distinguished career in local and State government, having held positions with the Cook County Sheriff's Department, the municipal court system, and the board of health.

He had not gained a great deal of seniority in the House but he was gaining each day in stature and respect as a hard worker.

I consider it a privilege to join my colleagues in the House in paying tribute today to the Honorable GEORGE COLLINS.

Mr. CONTE. Mr. Speaker, I join with the other Members of this body in mourning the passing of an able legislator and our distinguished colleague, GEORGE COLLINS. It is shocking and saddening that such a fine man was struck down in the prime of his life.

The enthusiasm and dedication of this soft spoken gentleman brought him the greatest respect of all who knew him. As evidenced in his overwhelming reelection victory last November, GEORGE COLLINS was held in the highest esteem by the people of his district. He worked hard for those constituents as well as for all Americans.

Very concerned and involved with the problems of both the young and the very old, he worked to help many unable to help themselves. It is a tribute to this man, though a sad and ironic one, that GEORGE COLLINS died trying to make some children happy.

An observant and sensitive man, he sought to correct injustices when he encountered them. A veteran himself, he did his best to make fairness and equality of treatment the right of every serviceman.

Throughout his public service career, GEORGE COLLINS fought to provide an even break for those who for so long were denied one. For black Americans and other minorities, he labored to insure their right to equal opportunity.

With the great need for men of his caliber, our loss is truly an enormous one. We shall miss him greatly.

Mr. EILBERG. Mr. Speaker, the sudden and tragic demise of the Honorable GEORGE W. COLLINS of the Illinois Sixth District, late last year, has come as a blow to the House of Representatives, leaving many Members with a distinct sense of personal loss. Indeed, his departure is a great source of grief so far as I am personally concerned.

GEORGE COLLINS had shown, in his single term in Congress, a knowledge of politics and government that rendered him a blessing to his district and to the country. His service in floor debate and committee discussion revealed his vast and sweeping knowledge of the many problems confronting us today, and the methods best suited for their imminent solution.

Closely associated over the past quarter of a century with the operations of county and city government, GEORGE COLLINS brought to Washington the deepest concern for grass-roots problems, and was intent upon applying his abilities in this regard to practical effect.

A native of Chicago and a graduate of Northwestern University, where he became proficient in business law, he served the country with distinction in World War II as a member of the Army Engineers, before entering the business of government, in which he was to become one of the most knowledgeable men of my acquaintance.

During the course of his precongressional career, he held positions with the sheriff's office of Cook County, Ill., the municipal court system of Chicago, and the Chicago Board of Health. He was president of the Landale Youth Commission, and a member of the board of directors of the Greater Lawndale Conservation Commission, as well as belonging to several religious and professional and businessmen's associations of considerable importance.

In all these undertakings GEORGE COLLINS performed with skill and with deep concern for the interests of Chicago and the State of Illinois. Following the death of the Honorable Daniel J. Ronan, he was elected to represent the Sixth District in November 1970 and reelected last November, shortly preceding the airplane accident that claimed his life.

As a member of the Committee on Government Operations and the Committee on Public Works, GEORGE COLLINS revealed at once his grasp of national issues and mastery of detail. He was clearly one of the outstanding new Members of the 92d Congress, in the eyes of all who witnessed his performance at close range.

We shall sorely miss him, both professionally and personally, and I would like at this time to extend my deepest sympathy to his wife and son in their bereavement.

Mr. HELSTOSKI. Mr. Speaker, in times that often seem beset with tragedy, the untimely death of the Honorable GEORGE COLLINS, of Illinois, is particularly saddening.

In just 2 short years as our colleague in the House of Representatives, Mr. COLLINS distinguished himself as a very capable legislator and representative of his constituents.

His dedication to his district and his country is clearly illustrated by his remaining on Capitol Hill long after the close of the last Congress. There were many Congressmen who had returned home much earlier for a long vacation, but Mr. COLLINS remained hard at work behind his desk in the Longworth House Office Building.

Indeed, the circumstances surrounding his passing are illustrative of the kind of man GEORGE COLLINS was. When the plane he was on crashed, Mr. COLLINS was returning home to his district to be present at a Christmas party for needy children which he had arranged. He had caught an early plane out of Washington, so that he could personally take a hand in selecting the presents.

These circumstances provide for us a concise biography of this fine man: Generous, dedicated, deeply concerned, loyal to his constituents, and more.

We will miss the kind, ever-smiling man from Chicago. I offer my deepest and most heartfelt sympathies to his courageous wife and son.

Mr. BURTON. Mr. Speaker, the tragic death of our colleague, Congressman GEORGE COLLINS of Chicago, is a shocking loss to all who knew, admired, and served with him in this Congress.

He was a tireless fighter for social, racial, and economic justice. As a member of the Congressional Black Caucus and as a Member of the House, GEORGE COLLINS voted his conviction that we in this Congress have a special obligation toward the Nation's millions of poor, the underskilled, and the malnourished.

His voice will be sorely missed by all of us who share his commitment.

I would like to extend to his family and many friends my most sincere sympathy.

Mr. WHALEN. Mr. Speaker, those of us who had the opportunity to work with the late Honorable GEORGE COLLINS of Illinois during his one term in the House soon became aware of the deep commitment which he had to the goal of improving the lives of our urban poor. He never relented in his efforts to provide them with adequate housing, health services, and jobs. As we continue our efforts to aid our cities' residents, we will greatly miss his perception and perseverance.

Yet GEORGE's service to the people of his Illinois district spanned a much longer period of time than the 2 years he spent in the House of Representatives. The children's Christmas party he was preparing was an event he had held for many years. Certainly, the people of Chicago were, indeed, fortunate to have a man with the concern and dedication of GEORGE COLLINS working for them.

Mrs. Whalen joins me in extending to Mrs. Collins and her son our deepest sympathy.

May GEORGE COLLINS rest in peace.

Mr. MATSUNAGA. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to add my voice to those of my colleagues who in recent weeks have given well-deserved praise to the late Representative GEORGE W. COLLINS of Illinois. I was deeply saddened by this untimely passing in an airplane crash in December, for GEORGE was a personal friend of mine.

Though he served in this body only a short time—just a little over 2 years—he represented Illinois Sixth District exceedingly well, basing his decisions on what would best serve his constituents—the people of Chicago's West Side.

During his short tenure, GEORGE COLLINS gained the respect and admiration of his colleagues for being a committed and diligent man dedicated to humanitarian principles. His dedication is exemplified by the fact that that last tragic flight was carrying him to personally purchase gifts for a children's Christmas party which he sponsored annually.

I extend to his wife, Cardiss, and their son, Kevin, my heartfelt sympathy for their personal loss and assure them that their grief is shared by his former colleagues in the House of Representatives like myself.

Mr. MORGAN. Mr. Speaker, it is a double tragedy when death overtakes a man who has not only achieved distinction in his past

public service but who also holds a highly promising future. Such was the case with GEORGE COLLINS.

In the relatively brief period in which he served in the House, he won respect as an able and hard working Member whose goal was the betterment both of his home district and of the Nation generally.

He was not one given to loud self-praise of his many good deeds; but respect and admiration for him by his colleagues grew as they saw how he, in his unostentatious way, gave unstintingly to his community and his country.

I had looked forward to many years of association and friendship with GEORGE COLLINS in the House. It is with a sense of loss that I join in honoring his memory.

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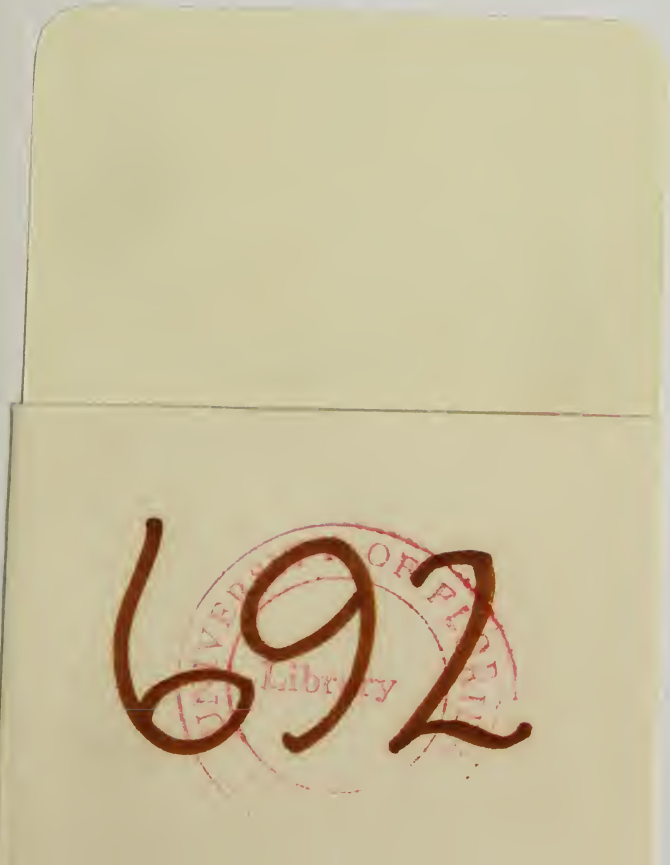

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